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## Grand Canyon News Release

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### **Invasive Plant Species to be Treated on South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park**

**Grand Canyon, Ariz.** - A project to treat invasive plant species on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park is scheduled to begin on September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of 2007. Personnel from the National Park Service (NPS) Vegetation Program will be applying herbicide to eradicate certain invasive species located on the South Rim. This is an ongoing project, and the species will be treated several times, as new populations are found. Treatment will only occur as conditions allow, and as new populations of the invasive species are located. Salt cedar or tamarisk (*Tamarisk ramosissima*), and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) are targeted in this project for South Rim developed areas.

The use of herbicide to control invasive species was approved in a 2004 Exotic Plant Management Categorical Exclusion (CE) and a 2007 amendment to the CE allowing further ongoing management through September 2008. Additionally, herbicide use for the 2007 season has been approved through the NPS Pesticide Use Proposal System. As detailed in the CE, all of the species targeted respond to herbicide; hand removal is not as effective and/or increases the number of plants from fragmented root segments and soil disturbance.

The herbicide will be applied by hand spraying targeted plants. There will be no broadcast or aerial application. The herbicide to be used is a mixture of 75 percent methylated soybean oil and 25 percent Garlon 4 (triclopyr). Treatment will occur in less than a dozen locations in the South

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Rim Developed Area. Because herbicide will be applied directly to the plants, surrounding areas will be open to foot traffic.

Additional information on the herbicide that will be used in this project can be found online at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/espp/effects/triclopyr/label-26719-40.pdf>

For further information regarding this project, please contact Molly Boyter, project manager, at 928-638-7857 with any questions.

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